

Indiana Land Resources Council Meeting Minutes

Date: May 22, 2001

Location: Office of the Commissioner of Agriculture

Members Present:

Joe Pearson
Bob Guernsey
David Hess
Riely O'Connor
Sam Smith
Don Strietelmeier

Members Absent:

Lt. Governor Joe Kernan
John Fernandez
Eric Kelly
Mary McConnell

OCA Staff:

Joe Tutterrow
Julia Wickard

Assistant Commissioner Joe Pearson called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Bob Guernsey moved and Riely O'Connor seconded the motion to approve the March 13, 2001 minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Statutory Review: (Refer to attached meeting notes for specific information)

The Council reviewed I.C. 15-7-9, Section 7 and discussed paragraphs 1 through 3. The Council outlined the following specific items for consideration at the next meeting:

- (1) Provide technical assistance and information about land use strategies.
 - The council listed specific information needed and then consolidated the list by grouping similar issues.
- (2) Facilitate collaboration among commonly affected state, county and local government units.
 - The council identified additional groups that should be involved.
- (3) Compile and maintain a land planning information library, both hard copy and electronic, that includes current data on land resources in Indiana.
 - Each council member was asked to search personal libraries and submit suggestions for additional library resources to Joe Tutterrow.

Benchmarking

The Council discussed parameters of the benchmark study. Greg Lindsey, Associate Director, The Center for Urban Policy and the Environment at IUPUI, explained how their office could support the collection and reporting of data requested by the Land Resources Council. Lindsey stated some of the information already exists, but it needs to be organized into the ILRC format. Additional information needs to be collected. Lindsey will assist Joe Tutterrow in developing a proposal outlining the areas and specific data to be incorporated into the benchmark report. This outline will be presented at the next Council meeting.

The Council identified the following priorities for inclusion into the study:

- A. What land is permanently being converted?
 - Look to organizations that have identified land uses
 - Forecasts into the future
 - Rate of conversion
- B. Comprehensive Plans
 - Can provide sound information
 - ILRC to identify workable models / provide accurate information
 - Which counties have existing GIS systems and how much information is being included in GIS that deals with land use, soil types, infrastructure, septic systems, etc.
 - Mapping & planning of infrastructure
- C. Where are we with the GIS system in Indiana? How well is the state doing?
 - Compatibility of state & local systems?
 - What data is available for forestland in Indiana?
- D. Trends, density research...measure of rural residential development
 - Conversion
- E. Strip development
- F. Map of productive lands and determine what threatens these lands?
- G. Trusts/easements...what are the impediments to doing these in Indiana? Location of these in Indiana. Lack of tax incentive? (i.e., tools, Ag. Districts)
- H. What does agriculture contribute to state's economy? Tax structure? (What are the major issues?)
- I. Quality of Life-Open Space-Farmland Preservation
- J. Confidence of farmers for agriculture in Indiana?
- K. (Negative) impact of tax structure

Land Use Updates

Jamie Palmer, The Center for Urban Policy and the Environment, gave an update on the Data Catalog that is being prepared by the Indiana Land Use Consortium. The catalog will be released at their fall conference on November 13, 2001. Palmer also stated the results of the 2001 Statewide Intergovernmental Survey and the statewide assessment of planning and zoning will be available this summer.

David Hess, ILRC member and Elkhart County Administrator, provided an update of the Elkhart County Pilot Project which will begin with a visit to the county on June 12, 2001.

Mark Spelbring, Purdue Land Use Specialist, gave an update on a survey he is conducting with Extension Educators throughout the state. This information will be available to the Council by the end of June.

Scott Priebe, Indiana Rural Development Council Intern, provided an update of the IRDC and emphasized the success of the Community Visitation Program.

Julia Wickard provided the following information:

- Summary of 2001 legislation.
- Update on Indiana Commission for Agriculture & Rural Development (ICARD)
- ICARD's efforts to develop recommendations for the 2002 Farm Bill. They have formed 10 committees and will provide recommendations to Indiana's congressional delegation on July 1, 2001.

Joe Tutterrow provided updates on the ILRC Website and brochure.

- Access Indiana is providing assistance with the Council's website. A sample of the format was distributed. (See attached)
- The Council's brochure is currently at the printer and will be available for distribution by the end of June. (Sample attached)

Senator David Ford complimented the Council on their work to date. He emphasized the need for the Council to provide policy recommendations to the legislature.

Eastern Land Use Tour

Joe Tutterrow discussed the Ultimate Farmland Preservation Tour (UFPT) which is scheduled for September 6th through 10th. Sam Smith moved and Dave Hess seconded the motion that the ILRC support Farm Bureau in sponsorship of this tour. The motion passed unanimously. Joe Tutterrow will participate on the tour, and will coordinate follow-up communication with Indiana UFPT alumni after the tour.

White Papers and Issue Briefs

Joe Tutterrow distributed a potential template for white papers and examples of Issue Briefs that could be used for ILRC publications. The council was asked to review and provide comment prior to the next meeting. (See attached samples)

Handouts (See attached)

- Executive Order 01-03 that created the Indiana Land Use Forum
- Wood-Lands-Lakes RC&D Conservation Easement – General Principles & Requirements Summary
- Hoosier Heartland RC&D announcement of the formation of the first meeting of their "Land Trust Steering Committee" on June 14th
- Indiana Forest Legacy Update
- Putnam County Farmland Preservation Board draft language
- Vision 2020 information (Greater Lafayette, Indiana)

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Joe Tutterrow, Director